

## ABSTRACT

A composite material suitable for external and/or internal association with a living body comprising: a component having a surface area less than approximately 10 m<sup>2</sup>/gm; and a first beneficial agent associated with at least a portion of the high surface area of the component, wherein the component is fabricated from a material having a hardness greater than the hardness of the first beneficial agent. The component may also be a core particle having a diameter of less than 4 microns. Preferably, the core particle is manufactured from one of a carbonaceous material, an inert and bio-soluble material, and an effervescent material.

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